

### **Francisco A. Ureña, Secretary of Veterans' Services**

Francisco A. Ureña was sworn in as Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Services by Governor Charlie Baker on February 6, 2015.

Francisco's commitment to government service began the day after graduating high school when he enlisted in the United States Marines Corps. In the span of eight years of honorable service, his duties included Diplomatic Security with the Department of State at two American Embassies; American Embassy Damascus, Syria and American Embassy Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He is a Purple Heart recipient from injuries sustained during Operation Iraqi Freedom campaign.

Francisco followed his enlistment with a degree in History and Legal Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. While pursuing his education, he involved himself in a series of volunteer work which ultimately led to his role as a Veterans' Services Officer in the City of Lawrence and later as Commissioner of Veterans' Services for the City of Boston. In 2008, Francisco was honored with the well-earned "Veterans' Services Officer of the Year" - awarded by former Veterans' Services Secretary, Thomas G. Kelley.

Secretary Francisco Ureña is focused on expanding initiatives, strengthening operations, and taking a progressive approach to the challenges facing veterans and their families in the Commonwealth.